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Task Force on National Accounts

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the Statistical Commission the report of the Task Force on National Accounts (Convener: Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts), which is contained in the annex. The report is transmitted to the Commission in accordance with a request of the Statistical Commission at its twenty-ninth session.[1]

Notes

[1] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1997, Supplement No. 4* (E/1997/24), chap. VIII.

* E/CN.3/1999/1.

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Annex

Report of the Task Force on National Accounts

Contents

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	Introduction	1–3	3
II.	Keeping the System of National Accounts relevant	4–17	3
	A. Mechanism for continuous updating of the System of National Accounts, 1993	4–8	3
	B. Two concrete proposals for updating the System of National Accounts, 1993	9–17	4
	1. Treatment of financial derivatives	9–12	4
	2. Functional classifications	13–17	5
III.	Integrated presentation of work programmes to support implementation	18–24	6
IV.	Points for discussion	25	7

Tables

1.	Proposed updating procedure for the System of National Accounts, 1993	8
2.	Manuals, handbooks and supporting materials for SNA implementation prepared or being prepared by member organizations of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts	9
3.	Summary of activities related to the System of National Accounts carried out by member organizations of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts	11

I. Introduction

1. At its twenty-ninth session (11–14 February 1997), the Statistical Commission:

(a) Commended the milestones defined by the Task Force as an appropriate tool for monitoring progress in the implementation of the 1993 System of National Accounts (SNA), and agreed with the proposal to present updated milestone assessments of countries regularly, including an analysis of changes occurring in milestone assessments over time (see E/CN.3/1999/3);

(b) Formulated its priorities regarding the proposed medium-term implementation targets (see para. 13 below);

(c) Endorsed the proposed support system of the Task Force, emphasizing again the importance of making publications available to countries (see paras. 18–21 below);

(d) Decided on the implementation date 1999 for the United Nations data questionnaire for national accounts (see para. 23 below);

(e) Agreed with the proposed work programme on functional classifications (see paras. 13–17 below);

(f) Asked the Task Force to make concrete proposals for a process of updating the 1993 SNA, taking into account the need for a streamlined process and the need for adequate consultation (see sect. II below).

2. Subsequently, the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination of the Statistical Commission, at its nineteenth session (see E/CN.3/1999/20, para. 5):

(a) Took note of the announcement by the delegate of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) that a camera-ready copy of the Russian translation of the *System of National Accounts, 1993* would be available by mid-March 1998 (see para. 19 below);

(b) Agreed with the proposed typology of possible amendments to the 1993 SNA (see sect. II.A below);

(c) Agreed in principle with the proposed delegation of authority to the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts (ISWGNA) in order to handle effectively minor editorial amendments and clarifications of an uncontroversial nature in the 1993 SNA. With regard to "interpretations" and "changes" of the 1993 SNA, the need for wider but still expeditious consultation was stressed. In order to bring in the expertise of national statistical agencies and also for the Statistical Commission to be fully involved, it was suggested that for interpretations and changes of the 1993 SNA, all members of the Statistical Commission would receive a 30-day notification period during which they could review proposed changes. If during this period no objections were raised, the proposal would be considered as adopted (see sect. II.B below);

(d) Accepted the proposed work programme of ISWGNA member organizations in support of the implementation of the 1993 SNA (see sect. III below);

(e) Took note of the proposals by the regional commissions for further close cooperation with the United Nations Statistics Division in the milestone assessment exercise for implementation of the 1993 SNA (see E/CN.3/1999/3).

3. Section II of the present report addresses the issue of keeping the SNA relevant. First, it summarizes the proposed continuous updating mechanism; then two concrete proposals for updating the 1993 SNA are presented to the Statistical Commission for final approval, one relating to the treatment of financial derivatives and another to functional classifications. In section III, an integrated presentation of the work programme of ISWGNA in support of SNA implementation is given, highlighting recent accomplishments and reviewing proposed priority areas for action. In a separate document (E/CN.3/1999/3) prepared by the United Nations Statistics Division in cooperation with the regional commissions, an updated country-by-country milestone assessment together with a brief analysis is presented.

II. Keeping the System of National Accounts relevant

A. Mechanism for continuous updating of the System of National Accounts, 1993

4. ISWGNA has discussed the importance of updating the SNA in order to resolve ambiguities that may appear during implementation of the system, as well as to maintain its relevance in a fast-evolving world economy. It has agreed that there is a need for both continuous updating of the 1993 SNA at shorter intervals and global revisions at larger intervals. Whereas global revisions are necessary to address revisions that affect the system as a whole in a fundamental way, continuous updating will allow the SNA to incorporate new developments faster, and also provides a way to introduce changes in an incremental manner.

5. In view of the above, ISWGNA presented a series of proposals to the Working Group on International Statistical

Programmes and Coordination of the Statistical Commission for a continuous updating process that balances both the needs for streamlining and adequate consultation.

6. As a consequence, a typology of amendments ranging from simple editorial amendments to complex changes in the 1993 SNA has been introduced (see table 1). For each type of amendment the process is different, so that for the more simple amendments a delegation of authority to ISWGNA was recommended by the Working Group, while for more complex situations ISWGNA will act in consultation with panels of experts drawn from the various regions. Furthermore, the Working Group recommended giving all member countries of the Statistical Commission a 30-day notification period during which objections might be raised. The overall mechanism as proposed by ISWGNA and amended by the Working Group is summarized in table 1.

7. In principle, anybody may submit proposals for amendments to ISWGNA. However, prescreening of proposals in adequate regional forums is strongly recommended. Also, it was agreed that unless significant new economic developments have taken place, issues of a controversial nature should not be reopened if a deliberate decision was taken during the course of the revision process of the SNA after substantial discussion within one of the expert groups or within ISWGNA. It is also understood that during the updating process, effective use of modern means of communication (e.g., e-mail, Internet) will be made in order for the consultative process to be broad and yet cost-effective.

8. ISWGNA has also elaborated proposals on how amendments of the 1993 SNA will be published, according to which the newsletter would announce amendments and official booklets would be published and disseminated in all official United Nations languages. Furthermore, electronic dissemination means (CD-ROM, Internet) will be added, as resources permit.

B. Two concrete proposals for updating the System of National Accounts, 1993

1. Treatment of financial derivatives

9. IMF initiated a process of international discussion on the statistical measurement of financial derivatives. A paper entitled "The statistical measurement of financial derivatives", prepared by IMF, proposed revised international standards. The main clarifications and changes to the 1993 SNA and the fifth edition of the IMF *Balance of Payments Manual* (BPM5) were approved by ISWGNA and the IMF Committee on Balance of Payments Statistics in October 1997. IMF has drafted a revision to the relevant sections of the 1993 SNA in close coordination with the similar exercise to revise the BPM5 and with the preparation of the IMF's *Manual on Monetary and Financial Statistics*. The draft changes to the 1993 SNA were reviewed and approved by ISWGNA at its meeting on 17 and 18 September 1998, and it was agreed to send a paper containing these changes to members of the Statistical Commission for a 30-day notification period.

10. In many respects, the key recommendations contained in the 1993 SNA remain unchanged in the new international standards. The principle remains that financial derivatives should be treated as financial assets, and that transactions in them should be treated as separate transactions rather than as integral parts of the value of underlying transactions or financial assets to which they may be linked. The two most significant changes concern (a) the expansion of the financial asset boundary to include financial derivative contracts regardless of whether "trading" occurs on or off exchange, and (b) the treatment of flows in the context of interest rate swaps and forward rate agreements, which are now recorded as financial transactions rather than interest flows.

11. The revision of the recommendations for the statistical measurement of financial derivatives can be summarized as follows:

(a) A more specific description of financial derivatives is introduced;

(b) No distinction is made between on and off exchange "traded" financial derivative instruments. Both are regarded as financial assets. To calculate the value of any financial derivative instrument it is essential that the reference price for the underlying item is observable. In the absence of an observable price for the underlying item, the "financial derivative" cannot be valued, cannot be regarded as store of value, and thus cannot be regarded as a financial asset;

(c) Interest rate swaps and forward rate agreements are recognized as financial assets, and net cash settlement payments in these contracts are classified as financial transactions rather than as property income flows as recommended in the 1993 SNA;

(d) A similar principle is applied to net cash settlement payments on the interest element of cross-currency interest rate swaps, which are now classified as financial account transactions;

(e) Since a financial derivative is recognized as a financial asset, its exercise is a transaction that should be recorded as such even if the underlying asset is delivered. Thus, the new standards recommend that a transaction in an asset underlying a financial derivative contract that goes to delivery should be recorded at the prevailing market price for the asset, with the difference between the prevailing price and the price actually paid (times quantity) recorded as a transaction in financial derivatives;

(f) In view of the importance and the different nature of financial derivative instruments, they are recognized as a separate financial instrument category;

(g) The new standards also clarify the treatment of margin payments in the national accounts.

12. As indicated in paragraph 2 (c) above, the Working Group of the Commission has requested ISWGNA to notify in advance all members of the Statistical Commission regarding any substantive interpretations or changes to the 1993 SNA. Consequently, ISWGNA will shortly circulate a document explaining the changes to the 1993 SNA entailed by the IMF proposal regarding financial derivatives. Members of the Commission will then have a 30-day period during which they can review the proposed changes. It is expected that this review will be finished by the end of 1998 or early 1999, so that if the Commission agrees in March 1999 with the updating policy endorsed by the Working Group of the Commission, the proposal would be considered as adopted.

2. Functional classifications

13. Document PROV/ST/ESA/STAT/SER.M/84 contains a complete set of all four revised classifications of expenditures according to purpose, which in the 1993 SNA are referred to as functional classifications. During the revision process, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) took the leadership regarding the Classification of the Functions of Government (COFOG), the Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose (COICOP) and the Classification of the Purposes of Non-profit Institutions serving Households (COPNI), whereas the United Nations Statistics Division contributed primarily to the revision of the Classification of Outlays of Producers by Purpose (COPP). Both bodies cooperated in the preparation of the introductory chapter.

14. The four classifications are primarily designed to classify transactions undertaken by government, households, non-profit institutions serving households (NPISHs) and producers which result in "payables" – that is, money paid or due for the acquisition of current and capital goods or of labour and other services, for the acquisition of financial assets or for the extinction of financial liabilities. In particular:

(a) COFOG and COPNI are used to classify a range of transactions, including outlays on final consumption expenditure, intermediate consumption, gross capital formation and current and capital transfers, by general government and NPISHs, respectively;

(b) COICOP is used to classify only a single kind of outlay — the individual consumption expenditures of households, NPISHs and general government;

(c) COPP is used to classify intermediate consumption and capital outlays of financial and non-financial corporations.

15. It is at the class or four-digit level that the classifications are defined. The 1993 SNA, however, only outlines the structures of the classifications at the two-digit level for COPNI and at the three-digit level for COICOP, COFOG and COPP. The revision included restructuring and defining the classifications based on previous classifications: the Classification of Household Goods and Services and the Classification of the Purposes of Private Non-Profit Bodies serving Households of the 1968 SNA; the Classification of the Functions of Government (COFOG, ST/ESA/STAT/SER.M/70, issued in 1980) and the Classification of Outlays of Industries by Purpose (COIP, ST/ESA/STAT/83, published in 1975). The definitions of the categories have been refined to clarify their contents and remove ambiguities, and many cross-references have been introduced in the form of exclusions. In addition, the classifications have been restructured to achieve a better balance between major functions and to identify more precisely those functions that are of increasing policy concern, such as environment protection, social protection and research and development expenditures. There are close links between the four classifications. Once the consumption expenditures of NPISHs and general government have been classified according to COPNI and COFOG, the individual consumption expenditures in these two classifications can be transferred directly into Division 13 and 14 of COICOP. Also, there are several functions that are common to two or more of the four classifications, and they have been clearly identified in a table. They reflect socio-economic objectives that are currently regarded as important in most countries, such as health, education, social protection, environment and housing.

16. Even though these classifications according to purpose are an integral part of the central framework of the SNA, they are also used in other statistical areas, such as

household budget surveys, consumer price indexes, international comparison programmes of purchasing power parities or of the extent to which governments are involved in economic and social functions and satellite accounting.

17. After the Commission approves the publication of the Classifications of Expenditure according to Purpose and agrees with the updating policy endorsed by its Working Group, ISWGNA will prepare and circulate a proposal to update the 1993 SNA similar to the one prepared for financial derivatives. The document will outline all the changes to chapter 18 on functional classifications and annex V on classifications and accounts of the 1993 SNA , and members of the Commission will be given 30 days to review it before it is adopted.

III. Integrated presentation of work programmes to support implementation

18. Tables 2 and 3 give an integrated presentation of the work programme of the ISWGNA member organizations in support of SNA implementation in the standard format used in previous ISWGNA reports. Table 2 contains a complete enumeration of manuals and other support materials, while table 3 lists meetings and research activities held since the last session of the Commission in February 1997 and those planned for the near future. Some highlights are set out below.

19. With the publication of the Russian and the Spanish versions of the 1993 SNA in 1998, the translation process has been completed and the document is now available in all six official United Nations languages. In addition, it is known to ISWGNA that a number of countries have translated all or parts of the 1993 SNA into other languages. The CD-ROM, which contains the English language version only, continues to be in high demand.

20. The newsletter *SNA News and Notes*, which is published biannually in four languages and posted on the Internet, remains a popular output of ISWGNA. In order to clarify the status of its articles, the categories "official ISWGNA position", "for discussion" and "for information" have been introduced. Also, the SNA hotline associated with the newsletter (e-mail address <sna@un.org>) is being used increasingly for conceptual questions and exchange of experience.

21. Regarding handbooks and other support material, the United Nations Statistics Division has completed and published four handbooks on the topics "Input-output table compilation and analysis", "Links between business and national accounts", "Household accounting: experiences in the use of concepts and their compilation" and "A systems approach to national accounts compilation". IMF will issue a manual on monetary and financial statistics in early 1999. The Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat) has published a handbook on quarterly accounts.

22. The United Nations Statistics Division has extended its cooperation with the regional commissions, and has launched a series of regional or subregional workshops, at Bangkok in October 1998, together with the Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific; at Addis Ababa in December 1998 and June 1999, together with the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA); and at Rio de Janeiro in November 1998, together with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the National Statistical Institute of Brazil. The topical orientation of these events (links with business accounts, practical experience with institutional sector accounts) reflect regional priorities. Mindful of the decision of the Statistical Commission on prioritizing support for countries with weak national accounts infrastructures, the United Nations Statistics Division and the regional commissions are targeting those countries in particular. In this context, the Division has started work on a training manual that will provide a practical basic introduction to the compilation of the 1993 SNA. In addition, ECA has conducted national training workshops in Ethiopia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo on methods of estimating gross capital formation and on the main features of the 1993 SNA, respectively.

23. In accordance with the decision of the Statistical Commission, the new national accounts data questionnaires based on the 1993 SNA and the European System of Integrated Economic Accounts, 1995 (ESA 1995) will be implemented in 1999. Since the 1993 SNA and ESA 1995 are fully consistent, an architecture of data-sharing between Eurostat, OECD and the United Nations has been agreed upon, so that each country will receive only one questionnaire. In order to support the implementation of the 1993 SNA questionnaire, OECD has prepared a glossary of SNA terms, which will be included in the booklet of instructions and definitions that will accompany the new questionnaire.

24. ISWGNA has also conducted a review of its research agenda, and has published a status report in *SNA News and Notes*, No.6 (July 1997). The United Nations Statistics Division is currently working on a handbook on uses of national accounts, and will cooperate with Johns Hopkins University on a handbook on the non-profit institutions. IMF

is pursuing its work on the *Manual of Government Finance Statistics*. With the latter two handbooks, a series of handbooks and manuals will be completed supporting each of the institutional sector accounts identified in the 1993 SNA. Eurostat continues its research and practical testing with regard to financial intermediation services indirectly measured. Eurostat has also prepared a legal text clarifying the ESA as concerns the principles for measuring prices and volumes. In 1998, Eurostat started a research programme to further investigate the issue of price and volume measures. This programme should be completed by the end of 2000. ECA, with other members of the Coordinating Committee on African Statistical Development, will be researching into gender in the national accounts, specifically with respect to the inclusion of a gender perspective.

IV. Points for discussion

25. The Statistical Commission is requested to comment on the following points:

(a) Does the Statistical Commission agree with the proposed mechanism for updating the 1993 SNA and the two concrete proposals with regard to treatment of financial derivatives and to functional classifications?

(b) Does the Statistical Commission approve the publication of the draft classifications of expenditure according to purpose (PRO/ST/ESA/STAT/SER.M, No. 84)?

(c) Are there any priority areas that the Statistical Commission wishes to identify regarding the proposed work programme of the members of ISWGNA in support of SNA implementation?

Table 1
Proposed updating procedure for the System of National Accounts, 1993

	Type of amendment			
Stage of handling	*Editorial amendment*	*Clarification beyond dispute*	*Interpretation*	*Change*
Proposal	ISWGNA reviews the proposed amendment and classifies it			
Preliminary drafting	ISWGNA	ISWGNA	ISWGNA assisted by a panel of experts	ISWGNA assisted by a panel of experts
First discussion			Working parties or regional panels of experts	Working parties or regional panels of experts
Second discussion				National statistical offices in all regions
Final drafting			ISWGNA assisted by a panel of experts	ISWGNA assisted by a panel of experts
Approval	ISWGNA	ISWGNA	Member countries of the Statistical Commission during 30-day period	Member countries of the Statistical Commission during 30-day period
Publication	Errata sheet	*SNA News And Notes*, then periodic booklet	*SNA News And Notes*, then periodic booklet	*SNA News And Notes*, then periodic booklet

Table 2

Manuals, handbooks and supporting materials for SNA implementation prepared or being prepared by member organizations of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts

Manuals, handbooks, compilation manuals and software in support of national accounts compilation	*Responsible ISWGNA member organization*[a]	*Status*	*Date of publication issue*
1. *Guidebook to Statistics on the Hidden Economy*	ECE	Published	1992
2. *Balance of Payments Manual*	IMF	Published	September 1993
3. *Handbook on Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting*	UNSD	Published	December 1993
4. *Balance of Payments Compilation Guide*	IMF	Published	December 1994
5. "An approach to presenting the 1993 SNA, with an operational application"	ESCWA	Published	December 1994
6. Manual on the 1993 SNA compared to the 1968 SNA	ESCWA	Published	December 1994
7. *Environmental Accounting: An Operational Perspective*, DESIPA Working Paper, No. 1	UNSD	Published	1994
8. Selected methodological papers on the European Comparison Programme (ECP) from group II workshop	OECD	Published	1995
9. *Integrated Satellite Accounting, Socio-economic Concerns and Modelling*, DESIPA Working Paper, No. 10	UNSD	Published	1995
10. *A Systems Approach to National Accounts Compilation: UNSD's Experiences in Implementing the SNA*, DESIPA Working Paper, No. 9	UNSD	Published	1995
11. *Balance of Payments Textbook*	IMF	Published	1995
12. *Handbook on Regional Accounts*	Eurostat		
Vol. 1. *Gross Value Added and Consumption of Fixed Capital by Activity*		Published in nine languages	1995
Vol. 2. *Household Accounts*		Published in nine languages	1996
Vol. 3. *Government Accounts*		Forthcoming	1998
13. *Handbook on Methods Used by OECD Member Countries to Measure Value Added in Service Activities at Constant Prices*	OECD	Published	February 1996
14. *Quarterly National Accounts: Sources and Methods Used by OECD Member Countries*	OECD	Published	May 1996
15. CD-ROM version of the 1993 SNA	UNSD	Published	May 1996
16. Arabic translation of the 1993 SNA	ESCWA/UNSD	Published	June 1996
17. Chinese translation of the 1993 SNA	UNSD	Published	September 1996
18. ESA 1995 (official languages)	Eurostat	Published	October 1996
19. CD-ROM version of ESA 1995 (11 official languages)	Eurostat	Published	November 1996
20. *Handbook on Inflation Accounting*	OECD	Published	November 1996
21. *Handbook on SNA for Transition Economies*	UNSD	Published	May 1997
22. French translation of the 1993 SNA, in close cooperation with INSEE, France	Eurostat	Published	October 1997
23. Spanish translation of the 1993 SNA, in close cooperation with INE, Spain	ECLAC	Published	September 1998
24. Russian translation of the 1993 SNA	IMF	Published	August 1998

Manuals, handbooks, compilation manuals and software in support of national accounts compilation	*Responsible ISWGNA member organization*[a]	*Status*	*Date of publication issue*
25. Manual on monetary and financial statistics	IMF	Draft discussed by Expert Group in November 1996	Early 1999
26. Handbook on quarterly accounts	Eurostat	Published	End-1998
27. Handbook on a systems approach to national accounts compilation	UNSD	Submitted for publication end-1997	1998
28. Handbook on input-output table compilation and analysis	UNSD	Submitted for publication October 1997	1998
29. Classifications of expenditure according to purpose: COFOG, COICOP, COPNI and COPP	OECD/UNSD	Final draft submitted to Statistical Commission for endorsement	October 1998
30. Commission decision clarifying the ESA as concerns the principles for measuring prices and volumes	Eurostat	To be submitted for publication in 1998	1999
31. Glossary for the 1993 SNA	OECD	Work in progress	1998
32. Development of new national accounts questionnaires based on the 1993 SNA/ESA 1995	UNSD, Eurostat and OECD	Ongoing	1999
33. Handbook on links between business and national accounting	UNSD	Submitted for publication in December 1997	1998
34. Handbook on household accounting: experiences in the use of concepts and their compilation	UNSD		
Vol. 1. Household sector accounts		Submitted for publication in December 1997	1998
Vol. 2. Household satellite accounting		Submitted for publication in March 1998	1999
35. Handbook on the use of macro-accounts for policy analysis	UNSD	Discussed at an expert group meeting in October 1998	1999
36. Handbook on the non-profit institutions, in cooperation with Johns Hopkins University	UNSD	Work started in October 1998	2000
37. *Manual on Government Finance Statistics*: revision of the 1986 *Manual*	IMF	Chapters to be circulated for comments to member countries in December 1998	2000
38. Handbook on the computerization of national accounts	UNSD	Draft will be discussed at an expert group meeting in mid-1999	2000
39. Guide for compiling the 1993 SNA: a practical introduction	UNSD	Work in progress	2000
40. Integrated environmental and economic accounting: an operational manual (in cooperation with the Nairobi Group)	UNSD	Will be submitted for publication in February 1999	1999
41. Integrated environmental and economic accounting for forestry, in cooperation with FAO	UNSD/Eurostat/World Bank	Complete draft circulated for comments	1999
42. Integrated environmental and economic accounting for fisheries, in cooperation with FAO and UNU	UNSD	Rough draft of selected chapters	1999

[a] For acronyms, see foot of table 3.

Table 3

Summary of activities related to the System of National Accounts carried out by member organizations of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts

	I	*II*
ISWGNA member organization	*Meetings, training seminars and workshops, courses etc.*	*Research activities designed to solve conceptual and practical problems*
	A. *International organizations*	
1. Eurostat	(a) Training courses on national accounts statistics in practice (26 May–6 June 1997) (b) Series of meetings of the Eurostat Directorate on Economic and Monetary Statistics (c) Joint Eurostat/OECDC/ECE meetings on national accounts (Paris, 3–6 June 1997) (d) Convening of a task force on the price and volume measurement in the revised ESA (1996–1997) (e) Convening of a task force on intangible assets in the revised ESA (July 1997) (f) Training of European Statisticians courses on ESA 1995: sector accounts (17–19 November 1997); financial accounts (11–13 May 1998); quarterly accounts (28–30 September 1998); non-financial accounts (7–9 December 1998); regional accounts (Munich, 11–13 January 1999)	(a) Examination of the allocation of FISIM in the revised ESA (1995–1997) (b) Examination of methodologies and country practices to produce "green national accounting" (c) Proposal of a work programme on the exhaustiveness of national accounts (1995–1998) (d) Examination of methods used to compile accounts of member States as part of implementing the GNP Directive (1994–1998) (e) Set-up of a programme measuring the progress made in implementing ESA 1995 throughout Europe (EU, EEA and PACs) (ongoing) (f) Continued research on consumer subsidies (1997) (g) Continued examination on the revision of COICOP/COFOG (h) Cooperation with pre-accession countries on the implementation of ESA 1995 and quality measurement of national accounts estimates (ongoing) (i) Work programme entitled "Regional GDP figures for candidate countries", screening of current methods (ongoing) (j) Task forces on volume measurement for health, education and public administration (1998)

	I	*II*
ISWGNA member organization	*Meetings, training seminars and workshops, courses etc.*	*Research activities designed to solve conceptual and practical problems*
2. IMF	(a)	(a)
	National accounts course on concepts and practical implementation of the 1993 SNA (annual: Washington, D.C., June–July 1998; Vienna, third course 1997, at the Joint Vienna Institute)	Study relationships between measurement of FISIM and weighted money measures
	(b)	
	Seminar on quarterly national accounts (Thailand, March 1998)	
	(c)	
	Regular courses on balance-of-payments, government finance and monetary statistics that include sections on national accounts and the links between these specialized statistical systems and national accounts	
3. OECD	(a)	(a)
	Joint OECD/ECE/Eurostat meeting on national accounts (Paris, 3–6 June 1997)	Research project on the evaluation of household production within a national accounting framework, which would include drawing up recommendations for standard classifications and accounts (1995–1996)
	(b)	(b)
	Joint OECD/ECE meeting of CIS national accounts experts (Geneva, 20–24 October 1997)	Continued research to elaborate possible methodologies for treating effects of environmental depletion and degradation within the framework of the 1993 SNA
	(c)	
	Joint OECD/ESCAP meeting on national accounts (Bangkok, 4–8 May 1998)	
	(d)	
	OECD annual meetings on national accounts (Paris, 22–25 September 1998; autumn 1999)	
	(e)	
	OECD meeting on measuring depletion in the national accounts (Paris, 28 September 1998)	
	(f)	
	Capital stock conference (second meeting of the Canberra Group, Paris, 29 September–1 October 1998)	
	(g)	
	OECD national accounts training course for CIS countries (Paris, March 1997)	
	(h)	
	Joint OECD/ECE meeting on national accounts (Geneva, April 2000)	
4. UNSD	(a)	(a)
	Expert group meeting on links between business and national accounting (New York, 18–22 August 1997)	Ongoing research work on household satellite accounting, including human resources accounting
	(b)	(b)
	Expert group meetings on international economic and social classifications (New York, 1–3 December 1997; 2–4 November 1998; February 2000)	Work on revision and further development of the classifications of producers by purpose (COPP) (1997–1998)

	I	II
ISWGNA member organization	*Meetings, training seminars and workshops, courses etc.*	*Research activities designed to solve conceptual and practical problems*
	(c)	(c)
	Expert group meeting on household satellite accounting (New York, 6–10 October 1997)	Joint project with Johns Hopkins University to study non-profit institutions
	(d)	(d)
	UNSD/ESCAP/ILO workshop on statistics on the informal sector (Bangkok, 12–16 May 1997)	Ongoing work on further development of integrated environmental and economic accounting
	(e)	
	Expert group meeting on the use of macro-accounts for policy analysis (New York, 5–9 October 1998)	
	(f)	
	Expert group meeting on computerization of national accounts (New York, 1999)	
	(g)	
	Expert group meeting on the production accounts for the financial sector (New York, 2000)	
	(h)	
	Expert group meeting on non-profit institutions (New York, 2000)	
	(i)	
	Expert group meeting on reconciling international commodities classifications for trade, industry and national accounts (New York, 2000)	
	(j)	
	Expert group meeting to set priorities for the updating/revision of ISIC, Rev.3	
5. World Bank	(a)	(a)
	Seminar on problems in the countries of the former USSR in moving to the 1993 SNA (Washington, D.C., November 1997)	Support for the International Comparison Project (ICP) initiative, seminars on methodologies
	(b)	(b)
	Seminar on prices and purchasing power parities (Washington, D.C., April 1998)	Preparation of training manual for use within the World Bank on the integration of environmental concerns with the SNA
	(c)	(c)
	Seminar on national accounts and the new SNA in Lithuania (May 1998)	Measurement of poverty using purchasing power parities compiled for specific income levels
	(d)	(d)
	Workshop on quarterly national accounts (New Delhi, October 1997)	Research into substitution bias and additivity in annual chained national accounts

ISWGNA member organization	I Meetings, training seminars and workshops, courses etc.	II Research activities designed to solve conceptual and practical problems
	B. *Regional commissions*	
6. ECA	(a) Workshop on compilation of public sector accounts in the framework of the 1993 SNA (bilingual) (Addis Ababa, 27–31 October 1997) (b) Subregional workshop on SNA 1993 implementation for North African countries (Tangier, 10–14 June 1998) (c) Joint ECA/UNSD workshops on corporate accounts, with emphasis on links between business and national accounts (for English-speaking countries, 7–11 December 1998, for French-speaking countries, June 1999) (d) Workshop on environmental indicators and accounting (Addis Ababa, November 1997; for French-speaking countries, 1999) (e) Joint ECA/UNSD workshop on environmental indicators and accounting (Addis Ababa, October 1998)	(a) Task force on gender in the national accounts (1999–2000)
7. ECE	(a) Joint ECE/Eurostat/OECD meeting on national accounts (Paris, 3–6 June 1997) (b) Joint OECD/ECE meeting of national accounts experts from CIS countries (Geneva, 20–24 October 1997)	(a) Project on capital stock for transition economies; case studies during 1998 examining methods currently used; developing improved methods of estimation (b) Continued support for the European Comparison Project within the ICP project of the United Nations (c) Organizing a session on the specific conceptual and practical accounting problems of countries in transition at the Conference of the IARIW (Norway, 18–24 August 1996, and Cambridge, United Kingdom, August 1998)
8. ECLAC	(a) Working group on standards for the valuation of the implementation of the 1993 SNA in countries (Santiago, May 1997)	(a) Country surveys on sources of basic statistics and national accounts (1995)

ISWGNA member organization	I Meetings, training seminars and workshops, courses etc.	II Research activities designed to solve conceptual and practical problems
	(b) International courses on national accounts by the Centro de Estudios Monetarios Centroamericanos, sponsored by the Argentinian Government (Buenos Aires, 20–24 October 1997), the Central Bank of Honduras (Tegucigalpa, 17–28 August 1998) and the Central Bank of Paraguay (Asuncion, March 1999)	(b) Second survey on progress in the implementation of the 1993 SNA (September–October 1996)
	(c) Refresher course on sustainable and human development concepts, macroeconomic modelling, environmental accounts and systems of social indicators, consistent with the 1993 SNA, Institute of Social Studies of the Netherlands/ECLAC (Santiago, 1–13 December 1997)	(c) Third survey on progress in the implementation of the 1993 SNA (August–September 1997)
	(d) Joint ECLAC/UNSD regional workshops on implementation of the 1993 SNA, hosted by the Brazilian Statistical Institute, Rio de Janeiro, 23–27 November 1998; the Mexican Statistical Institute, 1999; and a Caribbean country, 1999	
	(e) Joint ECLAC/UNSD workshops on integrated environmental and economic accounting in Santiago, 20–24 April 1998; and Trinidad, August 1999	
9. ESCAP	(a) Workshops to review ICP data inputs (Beijing, 16–20 June 1997)	(a) Continued support for the International Comparison Programme, phase VI, in the Asia and Pacific region for the reference year 1999, in cooperation with the World Bank and OECD
	(b) ESCAP/UNSD/ILO workshop on statistics on the informal sector (Bangkok, 12–16 May 1997)	
	(c) First workshop on the implementation of the 1993 SNA (Bangkok, 12–16 October 1998)	
	(d) ESCAP/OECD meeting on national accounts: the 1993 SNA five years on (Bangkok, 4–8 May 1998)	
10. ESCWA	(a) National training courses on concepts and data requirements of the 1993 SNA (Oman, April 1997; Syrian Arab Republic, December 1997)	
	(b) Regional training courses on concepts and data requirements of the 1993 SNA for Arab countries (Lebanon, November 1997)	

	I	*II*
ISWGNA member organization	*Meetings, training seminars and workshops, courses etc.*	*Research activities designed to olve conceptual and practical problems*
	(c)	
	Expert group meeting on the evaluation of the initial stages of the implementation of 1993 SNA in the ESCWA region (Lebanon, May 1998)	
	(d)	
	Joint ESCWA/UNSD workshop on environmental indicators and accounting (Cairo, November 1998)	

List of acronyms

CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
COFOG	Classification of the functions of the Government
COICOP	Classification of individual consumption by purpose
COPP	Classification of producers by purpose
COPNI	Classification of the purposes of non-profit institutions serving households
DESIPA	Former Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis of the United Nations Secretariat
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
EEA	European Economic Area
ESA	European System of Integrated Economic Accounts
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
EU	European Union
Eurostat	Statistical Office of the European Communities
FISIM	Financial intermediation services indirectly measured
GDP	Gross domestic product
GNP	Gross national product
IARIW	International Association for Research in Income and Wealth
ICP	International Comparison Programme
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
INE	Instituto Nacional de Estadística (Spain)
INSEE	Institut national de la statistique et des études économiques (France)
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
PACs	Pre-accession countries
UNSD	United Nations Statistics Division